

BEA

ATLANTIC
BUILDING EQUALITY IN ARCHITECTURE



CITY DREAMERS FILM SCREENING

EVENT SUMMARY

1 DECEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

Building Equality in Architecture Atlantic (BEAA) successfully applied for an APALA Advocacy Grant in the summer of 2019. With the generous support of this grant, BEAA was able to organize a multi-city film screening of 'City Dreamers' in October 2019, a film that profiles four groundbreaking female architects, urban designers, and landscape architects working in the mid-twentieth century, including Denise Scott-Brown, Phyllis Lambert, Blanche Lemko van Ginkel, and Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, the Vancouver-based landscape architect and one of the first women to graduate from Harvard with a degree in landscape architecture. The film presents original interviews with the four women, archival footage, and original cinematography to uncover the influence each of the four women have had on the shaping of our cities.

This film was the second in a series of film events planned by BEAA. The first film, 'Making Space,' was presented in Halifax only on May 30, 2019. BEAA's goal with the multi-city screening of City Dreamers was to promote the event to a wider audience and attract attendees that included both industry members (architects, landscape architects, and related professionals) as well as members of the general public.

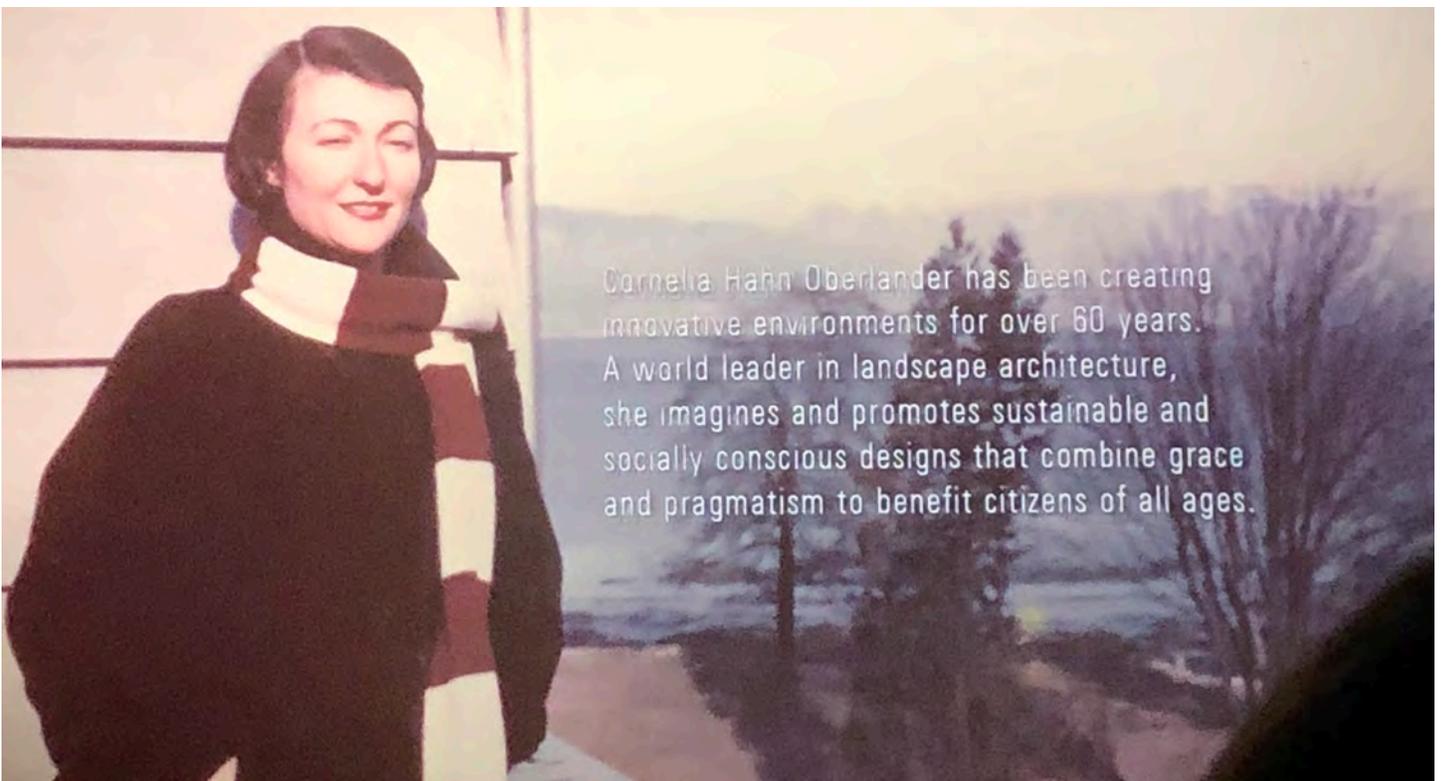
ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Building Equality in Architecture (BEA) is a nation-wide group with regional chapters across Canada. BEA is an independent organization dedicated to supporting equality and diversity in the profession of Architecture. We create events to promote the advancement of women and minorities in the profession and provide mentorship, networking and leadership opportunities.

APALA Member **Sandra Cooke of Brackish Design Studio Inc.** is a member of the BEA Atlantic (NS Chapter) programming committee and has liaised with APALA leading up to the City Dreamers event.

HALIFAX SCREENING

The Halifax screening of *City Dreamers* was held on October 6, 2019, at the Natural History Museum. Total attendance was approximately 60 people, with about 2/3 of attendees members of the architecture or landscape architecture industry, and the remainder were members of the general public. The film was followed by an opportunity to mingle and engage in casual discussion about the film. Refreshments were provided.





SAINT JOHN SCREENING

The Saint John Screening took place on October 7, 2019 at the Imperial Theatre. Total attendance was 23 people, with 2/3 of attendees as industry members, and 1/3 general public.



WOLFFVILLE SCREENING

The Wolfville screening was held at the Al Whittle Theatre on October 10th, with 19 attendees, 2/3 of whom were members of the general public. Feedback was very positive from all those who attended.



ST. JOHN'S SCREENING

The St. John's screening coincided with the launch of the BEAA NL chapter on October 28th. 32 people were in attendance, with approximately 50% as members of the general public, the remainder being members of local design industry. Lively discussion followed the film, much of it revolving around the difficult position of NL being geographically so far removed from any design schools, and how that may be a barrier for more people getting involved in design professions. The event itself was very positively received and there appears to be support for more similar events.



SUMMARY

The BEAA committee feels that the event was successful and generated great discussion about the professions of architecture and landscape architecture in Canada. The film *City Dreamers* not only shed light on some of the issues faced by female practitioners working in the mid-twentieth century to today, but also helped to build a general awareness of the breadth of work that landscape architects contribute to cities.

While overall attendance fell short of our initial projected numbers, this was the first film screening held in Saint John, St. John's, and Wolfville, where the design communities are smaller and we are still working to build visibility for the organization as well as for the design professions. We are very appreciative of APALA's generous support for this event, which was foundational in starting to grow support for our organization and for the design professions, and has set the stage for more events such as this one.